



Date: February 24, 2004
To: Members of the Marine Advisory Commission
From: Mark A. Sandoval, Manager of Marinas and Beaches
Subject: MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2004
MARINE ADVISORY COMMISSION (MAC)

Commissioners Present

Michelle Spence, Chairwoman
Richard L. Miller, Vice Chair
Mike Reed
Holly Carpenter
Mike Malbon
Bradley Whyte
Harry Hutton
Randy Crawford

Marine Bureau Personnel

Mark Sandoval, Manager, Marine Bureau
Vivian Crook, Secretary, Marine Bureau
Doug Parsons, Superintendent, Marine Bureau

City Staff

Dennis Eschen, Manager,
Jeff Edwards, Supt., Marine Maint.
Mark Boone, Chief, Lifeguards, LBFD
Ted Hulse, Deputy Chief, LBPD
Jay Johnson, Lt., LBPD
Dennis Sullivan, Sergeant, Marine Patrol
Martin Arroyo, Sergeant, Marine Patrol
Suzanne Mason, Deputy City Manager
Mark Christoffels, City Engineer, Public Works
Joe Pitisi, Supervisor, Marine Bureau, Ops.

Commissioners Absent

Mike Vescovi

Guests

Russell Geyser, The Geyser Group
Bud Johnson, former MAC commissioner
Amy Bently-Smith, Grunion Gazette
Kurt Helin, Grunion Gazette
Avonne Gravel, Admin. Analyst, 3rd Dist.
Robert Villegas, Admin. Analyst, 2nd Dist.
Joe Segura, Press Telegram
Don Cobleigh, LBMBOA

Chairwoman Spence convened the meeting at 2:30 p.m., at the Long Beach Yacht Club.

ROLL CALL

Mark Sandoval called the roll of commissioners and introduced Marine Bureau personnel, City staff and guests.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- The January 8, 2004, MAC minutes were reviewed and approved with a change on page four under Operations Committee to read, "Meeting cancelled for January."
- Mark Sandoval introduced Randy Crawford as the newest MAC Commissioner, replacing Robert Weeks who resigned in January. Mr. Crawford has been in the boat cleaning business for 41 years. He stated that he appreciated the opportunity to serve on the Commission.

Commissioner Crawford will be sitting on the MAC Operations Committee, in place of Mr. Weeks.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

NEW BUSINESS

Voice Your Choice II Survey – Suzanne Mason

- Suzanne Mason spoke regarding the status of the City's budget. She commented on improved communications between the community and its government. She also reviewed new developments linking community needs. She reported that the City had gone out to community asking for input regarding budget issues with the Voice Your Choice Survey and received 1,300 written responses. She briefly reviewed the City's 3-year financial strategy for balancing the budget, and explained that the City has reduced the structural deficit during FY 04 by close to \$38 million. The City is going back again to the community to ask for help through the Voice Your Choice II Survey. Suzanne distributed packets of information regarding the second survey and asked for support.

Marine Patrol Update – Deputy Chief Ted Hulsey

- Deputy Chief Hulsey gave an update on Marine Patrol (MP) issues of authority. He stated that as of September 15, Marine Patrol Officers (MPOs) will have the authority to transfer non-violent prisoners. On March 1, 2004, MPOs will begin two weeks of training in Verbal Judo, baton training, and vessel search. Two LBPD officers, formally MPOs, will back-fill during the training. He said that the City Council will have the ultimate say in MP's authority to issue citations. There has been a budget recommendation to reduce LBPD's fleet of vehicles. Hence, computer installation is on hold to see if MP will be issued new cars. Two of the newer cars have computers in them now. One-third of the MP bikes have been replaced. Also, starting in March, MP will begin a 4/40-work schedule (4, 10-hour days). The 5-day workweek left the marinas empty during shift change. With this schedule change, the budget remains the same but allows for better coverage and might reduce some overtime.

Mark Sandoval stated that the MDC (Mobile Digital Computer) system will allow MP to see when LBPD officers are dispatched to the marina areas.

Deputy Chief Hulsey stated that MPOs have Limited Police Officer Status, however, MPO status and duties will increase. He stated that Chief Batts agreed that there needs to be a better balance and that MP needed to be allowed to do more (more authority).

Vice Chairman Miller remarked that he is pleased to see better training for MPOs.

Commissioner Malbon said that he would like a report on the expanse of MP's responsibilities.

Deputy Chief Husley responded that he would come back to the MAC and give an update after MPO's authority to cite is approved by the City Council and is implemented.

- Vice Chairman Miller asked about the Municipal Code regarding Bayshore street closure in September. He asked if it could be made more flexible and user friendly.

Sergeant Sullivan responded that he will mention this request to the City Attorney when he meets with him next week.

Tower of Tuscana Proposal – Russell Geyser

The Geyser Group is the design team responsible for building The Bellagio in Las Vegas. Mr. Geyser said that he believes this project could be a very successful waterfront project, and highlighted some of the project design elements.

Commissioner Hutton remarked that it was a dynamite looking project, however, he is concerned about the marina and yacht club.

Mark Sandoval said that the access road does become an issue, but that the project can be changed to accommodate the City's needs.

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Commissioner Malbon said that traffic will be an issue, and that more than two ingress/egress areas will be needed. He also mentioned that the City has a busy bike path in the area.

Mr. Geyser replied that he was open to addressing these issues.

Mr. Geyser remarked that the great cities are walking cities, and that Pine Avenue, the Aquarium, the Queen Mary and Shoreline Village are not drawing effectively enough to make it work in Long Beach. His proposal focuses mostly on pedestrian traffic. He feels the City needs a project significant enough to draw people to it.

Commissioner Malbon is concerned that the three-story parking structure will affect the view of the Yacht Club. He is also concerned about noise and car pollution, and compromised dock access.

Mr. Geyser said that the parking structure cannot be seen from the boats or the bike path, and that all that would be seen is the water element. Freshwater will be used for the water element. Mr. Geyser stated that no City funds would be used; his company would be building everything.

Mark Sandoval asked the MAC to put their comments in writing and he would get them to Mr. Geyser.

OLD BUSINESS

MAC Annual Report

A rough draft of the MAC Annual Report for 2003 will be provided to the members at next month's meeting.

Review and Discuss Summary of Public Works Report

Mark Sandoval stated that the history of problems with Public Works was due to dramatic budget cuts; hence, Public Works was never able to hire enough staff to do the job. However, a lot of the issues in the report have now been addressed.

Commissioner Malbon stated that there are new people in place now, and that they should be allowed to work on these issues.

BUREAU MANAGER'S REPORT

Marina Operations Report

Doug Parsons gave the Marine Bureau Major Accomplishments, the Activity Report for ABM/LBSM, and the Total Vessels In and Out by Marina for the month of January.

- Doug Parsons reported that January was an exceptional month. He stated that some boat slips were released back to the waiting list. The marinas are 100 per cent full, with slips needed for the rebuild being held vacant.

Maintenance Operations Report

Jeff Edwards gave the Marine Maintenance status report for the month of January.

- Chairwoman Spence stated that the broken gate at Boat House Lane needs to be repaired.

Jeff Edwards responded that he would get it fixed.

- Commissioner Reed asked if the boom at Shoreline Village worked during this last storm.

Jeff Edwards said that the new operation is working well. He reported that the Port is putting in a series of cameras throughout the area, and that Marine Maintenance would like to use the cameras to monitor debris collection in the area.

- Vice Chairman Miller asked about gates in the Rainbow Harbor area.

Jeff Edwards stated that the commercial operators do have some concerns.

Mark Sandoval commented that the Grand Romance was cut loose twice and the Explorer was cut loose once. He said that a lot of people wander the docks after the bars close. Other security possibilities are being looked at.

Marine Safety Report

Lifeguard Chief Mark Boone gave the Marine Safety status report for the month of January.

- Marine Safety has been approved for a new rescue boat.
- Marine Safety officers have six safety classes to attend within the next six months.
- A question was asked about the issuing of citations in front of Marina Park (Mother's Beach). Chief Boone stated that the speed limit is 5mph in that area, and that last summer while swimming in the area he was nearly hit twice by speeding boats. He said that Marine Safety strongly enforces the speed limit in that area.

Marine Patrol Report

Marine Patrol Sergeant Dennis Sullivan reported on Marine Patrol activities for the month of January.

- Commissioner Malbon remarked that Marine Patrol's enforcement on truants has made a positive difference in the marinas.

Executive MAC

- Covered in meeting.

Operations Committee

- A request from boatowners in the LBSM to be allowed to keep two barbeques on each dock for boatowners to use is being reviewed by the committee. The LBFD will be involved in discussing this issue.
- The issue of boatowners being responsible for providing liability insurance to the City was discussed, and will be discussed in committee. Mark Sandoval will have Doug Parsons write up recommendations, and will then bring them back to the MAC.
- At this time, barbeques on the docks have been red tagged and are to be removed by February 15 or they will be impounded.
- Mark Sandoval stated that he made a presentation to the LBMBOA Board of Directors, fully explaining the budget. He also wrote an article for the upcoming Marina Reader, making clear points regarding the budget.

Commissioner Hutton commented that he attended the presentation and that Mark did a good job of explaining the budget.

Facilities Committee

Commissioner Reed reported on the Facilities Committee issues:

- The beach erosion and re-nourishment bidding process is still open and needs to start mid-February.
- The sandbag groin project was inspected last Friday. The new contractor did an excellent job. It will be looked at again in one year to view its overall performance.
- Basin 8 is completed and open. The contractor will remove dirt from the park site.
- Belmont Pier structural patching under the pier is being renegotiated with the contractor due to construction delay.
- The bicycle path relocation onto the beach in front of the Belmont Plaza Pool has been approved and the construction contract will be awarded soon.
- The Bluff Erosion Project should be complete by January 2005.
- Construction on the LBSM rebuild is to begin in June.

Finance and Information Committee

- Next meeting, March 11, 2004, at 2:00 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- None

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

- None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The next meeting is set for March 11, 2004, at 2:30 p.m.

cc: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
City Clerk